

REMARKS

Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated September 18, 2008, Applicants have amended claims 2-4, 8-11, and 13. Dependent claim 10 has been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1 and claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2-4, 8-11, and 13 have been amended to depend from claim 10. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, dependent claim 10 has been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of independent claim 1.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 9, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by JP 2004-074361 to Shinya et al.

Claim 10 was not rejected in view of Shinya et al., and as dependent claim 10 has been rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of independent claim 1, amended claims 2, 9, and 11-13 that depend from claim 10 should be allowed.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is solicited.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '361.

Claim 10 was not rejected in view of Shinya et al. and has been rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Thus, claims 3-8 that depend from claim 10 should be allowed. Accordingly, the rejection is moot and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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